

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-20, and 42-46 have been rejected. Claims 1, 11, 42 and 46 have been amended. Claims 15 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-14, 16-18, 20 and 42-46 are, therefore, presently pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-13, 17-18, 20, 42-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sho 57-76543 (Sho'543).

This rejection is respectfully traversed. There are four independent claims, namely claims 1, 11, 42 and new claim 46. Claims 1, 11 and 42 recite, in effect, that when w is 3, the three W groups do not (by previous amendment), at least by themselves, combine to form an aryl group, it being understood that W can still combine with other groups to form an aryl group.

Sho 57-76543 includes compounds having (using the group symbols in the present claims) an X group which is a sulfonyl group and a Y group that is a C, but has three W groups that combine to form an aryl group. Such compounds are excluded from claims 1, 11 and 42.

Claim 46 covers structures such as D-28 (on page 25 of the specification) in which a is 2. None of the prior art remotely suggests such a structure.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-13, 17-18, 20, 42-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sho 58-95344 (Sho'344).

This rejection is traversed for reasons similar to those above. The cited compounds of Sho 58-95344 comprise an aryl group attached to the sulfonyl group formed solely by the substituents on the "C" attached to the sulfonyl group, and this is excluded by all the independent claims except for claim 46 which is directed to a "bis" compound that comprises two X groups, for example, two sulfonyl groups, the subscript "a" being 2 according to claim 46.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 15 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome any rejection(s) under 35

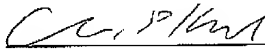
U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

All the independent claims have been amended to recite the limitations of dependent claims 15 and 19. Hence, all the claims should be allowable. It is noted that when the compound of Structure I or III is a developing agent that it is also a reducing agent, as well be readily appreciated by the skilled artisan. The language for the reducing agent can be found on page 51, lines 15-17.

Applicants herewith submit a terminal disclaimer with respect to commonly assigned copending USSN 09/614,035.

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the Office Action and that the claims are now clearly in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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